

3. / .
ASSOCIATED PRESS

0000254

U W BVLWYFUIV A0754

RPM-REAGAN-SOVIETS:450

REAGAN TRANSITION WARNED OF APPROACHES FROM SOVIET AGENTS

BY ROBERT PERRY

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - RONALD REAGAN'S TRANSITION TEAM HAS BEEN WARNED BY THE CIA TO BE ALERT FOR APPROACHES FROM SOVIET AGENTS FOLLOWING TWO SUCH CONTACTS ALREADY MADE WITH AIDES TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT; A REAGAN TRANSITION OFFICIAL SAID WEDNESDAY.

CIA AGENTS TUESDAY NIGHT BRIEFED 300 MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION TEAM, DISCLOSING THE TWO CONTACTS AND CAUTIONING THE GROUP ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE OVERTURES, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL SPEAKING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF ANONYMITY.

WHAT THE SOVIET AGENTS WERE AFTER AND WHEN THE CONTACTS WERE MADE WERE NOT DISCLOSED. NEITHER WERE THE IDENTITIES OR POSITIONS OF THE TWO TRANSITION OFFICIALS WHO WERE APPROACHED.

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIALS "SAID WE SHOULD BE VERY CIRCUMSPECT. THAT WE COULD BE CONSIDERED TARGETS" OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE, THE REAGAN OFFICIAL REPORTED. "THEY SAID TWO PEOPLE ON THE TRANSITION STAFF HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY SOVIET AGENTS. THEY SAID WE SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL."

THE CIA AGENTS PARTICULARLY WARNED MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION TEAM DEALING WITH NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT SENSITIVE PAPERS THAT ARE LOCATED AT THE TRANSITION OFFICES, THE REAGAN OFFICIAL SAID.

THE OFFICIAL SAID THE WARNING APPEARED PRIMARILY INTENDED TO INFORM NEWCOMERS TO WASHINGTON ABOUT THE REALITIES OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY AND THE DANGERS OF HOLDING POSITIONS OF POWER.

"IT WAS SORT OF A LECTURE ON HOW TO BEHAVE," SHE SAID.

ONE OF THE CIA OFFICIALS WAS DESCRIBED AS A "COUNTERINTELLIGENCE FIELD AGENT" AND THE OTHER WAS IDENTIFIED AS A "SECURITY EDUCATION FIELD AGENT."

CIA OFFICIALS WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON DETAILS OF THE SOVIET CONTACTS. FBI OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE UNAWARE OF THE BRIEFING OR THE REPORTED CONTACT BY SOVIET AGENTS.

LARRY SPEAKES, A REAGAN SPOKESMAN, CONFIRMED THAT SOME "SECURITY OFFICIALS" BRIEFED A MEETING OF THE REAGAN TRANSITION TEAM. SPEAKES SAID VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT GEORGE BUSH AND TRANSITION DIRECTOR EDWIN MEESE III WERE AT THE BRIEFING.